



FOREST CONSULTANT'S NEWSLETTER

A Quarterly Newsletter of the Department of Conservation, Maine Forest Service Stewardship Program

Forest Stewardship Assistance Cost-Share Program Returns

The Forest Stewardship Assistance Program providing financial assistance to landowners who have a forest management plan drawn up is back. The program restarts on September 1 at a 50% cost-share rate. Changes made to the program during the hiatus are:

- ♦ Cost-share rate reverts to 50%
- ♦ Ice storm assessment no longer necessary
- ♦ Woodlot Assessment option no longer available

For more information on the program, see the inserts with this newsletter. Additional copies of the application brochure are available from the Maine Forest Service office in Augusta and from all MFS field foresters.

Looking for Volunteers for the SAF 2001 Poster Contest

The poster contest is a statewide contest for sixth graders in which foresters go to the participating classrooms and give a short presentation on forestry. The students then draw a poster on the theme "What's Green and Growing and Covering Maine?", based on their own experiences and on the presentation. The posters are then judged and County winners and a State winner are chosen. With over 2700 students (and future voters) participating last year, think of the positive influence on forestry this contest has. Would you be willing to give a presentation? Or to help out?. If so, call Patty Cormier at 549-9003 or e-mail patty.cormier@state.me.us.

Fall Consultant Training

The Maine Forest Service's annual training session for consulting foresters will be held on Wednesday, October 24, 2001 at the Bangor Motor Inn Banquet and Conference Center on the Hogan Road in Bangor, from 8:00 to 4:00. Topics to be presented include ArcView training, Community Forestry, and a Stewardship Update, among others. You will receive registration materials in the mail the week of October 1, but mark your calendars now.

TSI - 23rd letter of the Greek alphabet

The Lammert Report

As the words to a famous Country-and-Western song go, "Ya gotta know when to hold 'em" -- Now is that time. If you are in the middle of a harvest, make sure that you have decent markets for your sawlogs. Make sure all sawlogs are being taken out of hardwood stems. If you as a logger, or the logger cutting your woodlot, has been put on a quota or "ticket" system of delivery, you can be thankful as 1) you are still able to move some logs, and 2) the price may stay up as the "ticket" and not price is being used to regulate wood flow.

Again, if you haven't started a logging operation make sure you can still market your wood where you thought you were going to sell your roundwood. If the log prices have dropped, rethink cutting your woodlot.

Also, watch out for what is being shipped for pulp, especially hardwood pulp. With the sawmills just getting by with orders, not one I've encountered is actively buying logs. When this occurs, loggers have a tendency to put whatever they cut into whatever is moving. I've seen some beautiful ash logs going by my as tree length pulp.

I have a new toy that was purchased to prune offending branches from street shade trees. It is a telescoping pole saw with a very aggressive curved blade that has a "nose" on the end that keeps you from pulling the blade out of the saw cut. The handle telescopes to 20'9", so holding it shoulder high, I can easily prune to 25'. That's two twelve foot logs on any tree that is worthy of pruning. Who knows what veneer white pine or ash will be worth in 30 years or more.

Happy Pruning! Pete L.

Portable Sawmill Demonstrations

The Maine Forest Service is sponsoring two portable sawmill demos this fall, at the SWOAM Forestry Fair in Augusta on September 8 and at the Common Ground Fair in Unity on September 21-23. We will be taking a truckload of tree-length hemlock pulp at each site and bucking the logs for quality and sawing out what can be sawn. See how much more value there can be in a load of wood if someone bothers to sort it. Small woodlot owners who need rough lumber for building purposes may realize at lot more return if they have a portable sawmill come onto their lot, rather than selling the wood as pulp.

Legislative Wrap-Up

The Legislature once again had a very busy session, with over 1800 bills printed for consideration. On the forestry side, things were relatively quiet. Most legislators seemed content to let forestry matters rest a bit after the Fall 2000 referendum. Nonetheless, the Legislature did pass some interesting forestry legislation and killed a number of bills opposed by the administration.

Bills Passed

LD 1660, folded into Public Law 439, aka "The Budget Bill", Certified Forest Resource Manager grant fund:

MFS is directed to develop a grant fund to offset part of the cost for consulting foresters seeking independent third party certification as certified forest resource managers. This small (\$5,000) fund will provide 50% of the cost of certification, up to \$1,000 according to rules to be developed by MFS. If you are interested in pursuing independent third party certification, stay tuned.

Public Law 339, Outcome based forest policy: Outcome based forest policy involves setting mutually agreeable, desired outcomes for the forest and giving landowners and managers the latitude to figure out how to achieve those outcomes, as an alternative to prescriptive regulation. This department bill allows MFS to develop experiments in the principles of outcome based forest policy with willing landowners, on a limited basis. MFS and interested landowners may develop and initiate pilot agreements that provide at least as much protection of public trust resources and public values in the forest as does the FPA. MFS will work with an advisory group on this process. We are very excited by the possibilities of this approach and the potential it has for the future forest.

Public Law 261, Revised forester licensing law: This bill recodified and made a number of changes to the law governing forester licensing. The licensing board has begun the process of developing rules to conform to the law. It's very important for you, the regulated community, to participate in the rulemaking process. Contact one of the board members for more information.

Public Law 305, An Act to Amend the Laws on Current Use Taxation to Exclude Property that is Subdivided After Classification: This bill makes a minor change to the Tree Growth Tax Law to make the grantee responsible for paying the Tree Growth Tax Law withdrawal penalty when a subdivision results in a parcel of less than 10 acres. The law applies to transactions after 01 November 2001.

The Legislature passed a number of bills relating to and supporting community forestry during the session. One bill provided a one-time appropriation for grants to communities. In a previous newsletter, we encouraged consultants to consider the benefits of broadening their

services to community forestry. We encourage you again to think about doing this.

Bills Defeated

The Legislature killed several bills related to the Tree Growth Tax Law. Some of these bills tried to reduce or eliminate the withdrawal penalties; a number of them tried to create additional conditions for participation, e.g., reducing the tax benefit to landowners who did not allow public access to enrolled land. The Legislature also killed a couple of bills that would have amended the Forest Practices Act. MFS opposed these bills.

If you need further information about any bills passed during the last session, please go to the legislative home page, <http://janus.state.me.us/legis/> or contact your legislator.

Staff Changes at the Maine Forest Service

Paul Larrivee has joined the Maine Forest Service as the District Forester covering Sagadahoc, Cumberland, and Androscoggin Counties. His office is in Gray (356 Shaker Road, Gray 04039). You can reach him at (207) 657-3787.

Tish Carr is leaving her position as Community Forestry Coordinator with the Maine Forest Service. She has taken a new job as City Forester for Augusta.

What Would You Like to See on the Maine Forest Service Website?

The Maine Forest Service, Forest Policy and Management Division is looking for suggestions or ideas about additions to our website - <http://www.state.me.us/doc/mfs/fpmhome.htm>
Contact Greg Lord with your thoughts at 1-800-367-0223 (in-state only) or (207) 287-4950 or email him at gregory.r.lord@state.me.us

Do You Have a Training or Educational Event that You Would Like to Advertise for Free?

If you have information about a training or educational event that you would like to have posted on the Maine Forest Service Calendars of Events web pages, contact Greg Lord with the information. You can view the calendar at <http://www.state.me.us/doc/mfs/calendars.htm>.

Forest Resources Association Meeting to Be Held

The Forest Resources Association (formerly the American Pulpwood Association) announces its fall meeting, *Logging On for Loggers & Foresters: How Computers and the Internet Can Benefit the Bottom Line*, October 4-5, 2001 at the Grand Summit Hotel in Bethel, Maine. For more information, contact Pat Hackley at (207) 622-3705.